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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA: LT. COL. TESSMER
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM: EREHFELD
OSD/ISA: MR. SIENA
EUR/NE: MR. SCHALLER
----------127258 090400Z /14
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD
ESD HANSCOM AFB MA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MILI, AWACS

SUBJECT: DANISH REQUEST FOR AEW PAYMENT PHASING

REFS: (A) USNATO 5320, DTG 251058Z MAY 78
(B) COPENHAGEN 3497, DTG 261448Z MAY 78

1. WE TOO ARE PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED THAT DENMARK IS TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM (REF B). MOREOVER, THE PAYMENT PROPOSAL OUTLINED IN REF A IS USEFUL IN ILLUMINATING THE PROBLEM OF PROJECTED FUNDING DEFICITS. HOWEVER, THE CONCEPT OF PRE-FINANCING, WHETHER BY THE US OR OTHER NATIONS, DOES NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE A VIABLE APPROACH TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF NEAR TO MID-TERM PROGRAM DEFICITS.
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2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO THIS PROBLEM ARE UNLIKELY TO BE ANY MORE PROMISING, YET THEY SHOULD PERHAPS BE EXPLORED. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO STRIKE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FRENCH TO PHASE THEIR PAYMENTS TO COVER THE PROJECTED FUNDING DEFICITS DELINEATED IN REF A. ALTERNATIVELY, IT MAY

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BE POSSIBLE TO ADJUST SLIGHTLY THE PROPOSED AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION SCHEDULE TO ACCOMMODATE THE FUNDING DEFICIT

PROBLEM WITHOUT INCURRING COST INCREASES THAT WOULD MAKE THIS APPROACH SELF-DEFEATING. FINALLY, ALL PARTICIPANTS MIGHT AGREE TO ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROPORTIONATELY TO COVER THE SHORTFALL CAUSED BY ITALIAN, DANISH AND NORWEGIAN BUDGET DIFFICULTIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT AGREEMENT ON THIS LAST ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AT THIS LATE DATE.

3. WHILE THE FUNDING SOLUTION SOUGHT BY THE DANES MAY NOT BE ACHIEVABLE, WE WANT TO BE FORTHCOMING TO THE DANISH DESIRE TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH US. THEREFORE, IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, THE US FINANCIAL NEGOTIATOR (MAJ GEN BOWMAN) CAN ARRANGE TO BE IN COPENHAGEN FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH DANISH OFFICIALS DURING THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE.

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